

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PER-01 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5743

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SO, US
SUBJ: RESTRICTIONS ON US DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL RELAXED

1. RESTRICTION ON US DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND US EMBASSY OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN EASED IN FOUR AREAS: TRAVEL, IMPORTS, SURVEILLANCE, AND ASSIGNMENT AND HIRING OF PERSONNEL. THE AMBASSADOR'S CHRISTMAS REQUEST TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE 40 KM ZONE WAS PROMPTLY APPROVED. AID OFFICERS CAMPBELL AND GULICK TRAVELLED TO BAIDOA IN DECEMBER. SOMALI GOVT OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED OTHER EMBASSY TRAVEL IS POSSIBLE, EVEN WELCOME. STAFF LIMITATIONS HAVE UNFORTUNATELY KEPT US CLOSER TO MOGADISCIO THAN WE WOULD HAVE LIKED, BUT THE EMBASSY WILL SHORTLY BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRAVEL LIBERALIZATION. WE ANTICIPATE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WHEN REQUESTING TRAVEL TO CITIES IN THE NORTH SUBJECT TO ETHIOPIAN AIR ATTACKS, BUT SUGGEST THERE MAY AT LEAST BE SOME REAL SOMALI CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF DIPLOMATS IN THIS MATTER.

2. SURVEILLANCE OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL ENDED IN MID-JULY, AND DISCERNABLE SECURITY HARASSMENT BY HOST GOVERNMENT HAS CEASED.

3. IMPORTATION OF PERSONAL GOODS AND SUPPLIES IS NOW VASTLY IMPROVED. (SEE EMBTEL 77 MOGADISCIO 2155) EMBASSY
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PERSONNEL NO LONGER ARE REQUIRED TO WAIT MONTHS FOR APPROVAL TO CLEAR ENTRY OF CARS, EFFECTS, OR SUPPLIES. THERE IS A POSSIBLE PROBLEM OF GETTING VEHICLES LICENSED FOR STAFF PERSONNEL, BUT WE ARE TRYING TO WORK THIS OUT.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO HINDRANCE OF EMBASSY EFFORTS TO INCREASE STAFF, OR TO HIRE LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

5. ALL OF THE ABOVE MUST BE VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF INCREASING ACCESS TO SOMALI MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS, GOOD PUBLIC RESPONSE TO USIS PROGRAMS, AND RECEPTIVITY TO FAVORABLE AMERICAN VIEWS BY THE LOCAL MEDIA. THE CLIMATE IS NOT PERFECT, BUT THE ATMOSPHERE IS IMMEASURABLY BETTER THAN IT WAS SIX MONTHS AGO. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THE GSDR HAS SUDDENTLY BECOME A LIBERAL STATE. THE CONTROLS IMPOSED UPON ALL DIPLOMATS ARE STILL ON THE BOOKS, BUT THE ENFORCEMENT IS LIBERAL AND ON BALANCE SYMPATHETIC. VOUGHT

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Message Attributes

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